

Soviets Convict Writers

Court in Turn Is Condemned By 2 Russians

By Anatole Shub
Washington Post Foreign Service
MOSCOW, Jan. 12—A Soviet court today condemned two dissident young writers to stiff terms at forced labor, but was itself condemned by two other prominent Russians for conducting a "witch trial . . . no better than the celebrated trials of the 1930s which involved us in so much shame and so much blood that we still have not recovered."

As demanded by the prosecution, Moscow City Court Judge Lev Mironov sentenced to five years imprisonment Alexander Ginsburg, 31, who compiled a documentary "white book" on the 1966 trial of writers Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel.

Yuri Galanskov, who edited the underground magazine Phoenix 1966, was sentenced to seven years in prison. Both were condemned under Article 70 of the Soviet criminal code forbidding "anti-Soviet propaganda," and Galanskov was additionally charged with illegally exchanging foreign currency.

The conduct of the five-day trial was assailed, even before the verdict, in a forceful statement transmitted to Western newsmen and addressed "to world public opinion" by Pavel Litvinov, mathematician grandson of the late Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov, and Larissa Bogoraz Daniel, wife of the imprisoned novelist. They said that the judge, prosecutor and hand-picked audience had indulged in "a wild mockery, unthinkable in the twentieth century," of the defendants and witnesses.

Litvinov, 30, said after issuing the statement that he did not fear or expect his own ar-

rest, "although in our country that possibility is always open." He said: "Ginsburg is my friend, but I am doing this because I want my country to be a just country."

Mrs. Daniel, asked why she had risked issuing the statement in view of her husband's fate, said: "It is simply impossible for me to do otherwise."

The Litvinov-Daniel statement made detailed charges against the conduct of the trial, to which only seven close relatives of the defendants and special pass holders were admitted. Judge Mironov was accused of hectoring the defense and witnesses, of illegally ejecting witnesses from the hall, of permitting only testimony "which fit in with the program already prepared by the KGB investigation." (The KGB, Committee on State Security, acts as the Soviet political police at home as well as an intelligence arm abroad.)

Litvinov and Mrs. Daniel charged that the courtroom was filled with "specially selected people, officials of the KGB, druzhiniks (volunteer police or vigilantes) who . . . make noise, laugh and insult the accused and the witnesses." They charged that witnesses were "pushed out of court in a depressed state—almost in hysterics" while in at least one case "the audience howled."

Litvinov and Mrs. Daniel asserted that there could be no pretense that the trial was objective or legal.

They appealed to "everyone in whom conscience and ample courage are alive" to demand a new trial, the release of the accused, and condemnation and punishment of those who organized this week's proceedings.

Although the Soviet press or radio has yet to say a word about the trial, the score of friends of the defendants who have kept vigil at the court-

house all week were joined this evening, when sentencing was expected, by more than 100 others—apparently drawn by news heard on Western broadcasts.

The crowd on the sidewalk, held back by uniformed militia, reacted silently to the departure of court officials and their retinue. However, red roses were presented to the four defense attorneys, and the exit of Olga Timofeyeva, the handsome, titian-haired wife of Galanskov, resembled a triumphal procession.

Because of a broken ankle she was carried on the shoulders of Litvinov and the young son of Yuli Daniel, as they moved from the courthouse steps to a taxicab, the entire crowd—excepting the police—followed across the icy street and waited until the cab finally drove off.

The sentences awarded tonight were not a surprise, although the precise evidence given in the trial still remains largely unknown. In addition to Ginsburg and Galanskov, Alexei Dobrovolsky, 29, who supported the prosecution in the case, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Vera Lashkova, 21, who typed the allegedly anti-Soviet manuscripts, was given a one-year sentence.

All the defendants have already spent nearly a year in jail awaiting trial, so that Miss Lashkova's release is expected before the end of the month.

The prosecution charged all four with being agents of the NTS—Popular Labor Alliance—a right-wing emigre organization often accused of links with the CIA. However, Ginsburg denied any connection with that group, while Galanskov and Miss Lashkova—according to some reports—admitted only to having read one or two NTS pamphlets.

Their supporters charge that all the incriminating materials mentioned in the case—ranging from such literature to a Shapograph or invisible writing kit—were found in Dobrovolsky's apartment or else produced later.

The authorities have yet to publicize their version, but some attempt at explanation is expected shortly in an article in one of the Moscow papers or in the form of an "exclusive" story—now reportedly being prepared by a Soviet news agency for sale to Western media.

Although this week's four defendants were by no means as well known as Sinyavsky and Daniel, the trial and its denunciation by Litvinov and Mrs. Daniel will doubtless have repercussions in broad Moscow cultural circles.

Last weekend, an appeal for a fair and open trial was issued by 30 prominent writers, artists and scientists, headed by novelist Vassily Aksyonov and poetess Bella Akhmadulina, who personally vouched for Ginsburg's "honesty and decency."

The outcome of the trial is therefore hardly expected to relax the tensions between Soviet cultural liberals and conservatives. Controversies remaining to be resolved include the unpublished works of novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the literary symbol of de-Stalinization and author of a strong open letter last spring demanding an end to censorship.

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